

Clarendville Middle School Council

Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2010

In attendance:

Troy Mitchell, Chair
Paula Roberts, Secretary
Craig Pardy, Principal
Rod Short, Parent Rep.

Dr. Paula Pye, Parent Rep
Rhonda Holloway, Parent Rep
Dave Hains, Community Rep
Gwen Hiscock, Parent Rep

Regrets:

Gerry Organ, Vice-Principal
John Mahar, Community Rep

Dr. Vas Vasanthan, Parent Rep
Lisa Drover, Teacher Rep

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by the Chair.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes or additions. Moved by Ms. Holloway; seconded by Mr. Short.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with a minor change regarding school reconfiguration. Moved by Ms. Hiscock; seconded by Ms. Holloway.

4.0 Business Arising

- School parking lot – The Chair reported that the council at CHS has agreed with the changes CMS discussed and recommended, including having all school buses going to the back of the buildings. Both councils agreed that some form of physical barrier across from the high school would help prevent parked cars waiting for students to entering the traffic lane. The proposed changes have been discussed with the board and will hopefully be in place for September. The entrance at the rear of CMS (atrium) will be monitored for problems in wet and winter weather conditions.
- Cell phone usage – Mr. Organ has met with each individual class (with exception of grade 8's) to discuss appropriate cell phone use and internet use. Students were engaged in the discussion and demonstrated their knowledge of what they should be doing and what activities were not safe.
- School restructuring – still targeting September 2011; could go to January 2012 if there are problems with the tendering or construction schedule.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-out Child

- Book by Richard Lavoie
- Book also backed up by a video
- The video and book were discussed at a recent PD session to set the stage for a Differentiated Classroom style teaching which will continue to be implemented at CMS in 2010-2011

- Here is a quote from the book, which discusses six different motivational styles of children:

“As educators and parents, we must downplay competition and emphasize the concept of ‘personal best’. We should encourage students to continually strive to improve their own performance and be less mindful of comparing themselves to others. Personal Best should replace the drumbeat of The Best. Unfortunately, most schools emphasize the best and reserve their awards, plaques, certificates, and rewards for the most-skilled students. This approach has a negative impact on the children who struggle with learning, because they never have the opportunity to ‘shine’” (Lavoie, 2007, p. 16)

5.2 Understanding Differentiated Instruction

- Looks at the uniqueness of learners; treating them as ‘the same’ is an injustice
- In differentiated instruction, every and all activities include several styles of learning, i.e. visual, auditory, kinesthetic, etc. – and move from tests to assessments
- Mr. Pardy showed council several examples of assignments/assessments which build upon different learning styles

6.0 2011-12 School Year

6.1 Physical Development Profile Update

- Program is finished
- Will be used in the coming school year
- Parents will be able to access individualized assessments of their child’s physical profile

6.2 Personal Training Sessions

- Beginning in September, students in grades 7 and 8 will be allowed to participate in a high intensity personal training session for one 30 minute slot per cycle
- Will be run by Mr. Penney and Ryan Power, who is a personal trainer
- Hoped that it will attract 25-30 students

6.3 Communication of School Events and Programs

- Council members were approached by parents who said they were not made aware of a recent concert
- The event was omitted from a school newsletter and the date on the school website was different
- Mr. Pardy apologized, and agreed it was an oversight in the recent newsletter. Staff have been made aware of this and the school will certainly ensure that all events are communicated to parents in the future

7.0 School Tidbits

- Ms. Stanford is retiring at the end of this school year – the council wishes her every success in her coming retirement. She will certainly be missed!
- This was Mr. Mitchell’s last year as a council member and Chair. CMS council will be looking for a new Chairperson in the coming school year. Everyone thanked him for his dedication to CMS.
- The school newsletter which is being sent home tomorrow was passed out to Council members in attendance.

8.0 Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.
- The last meeting for the year will be held at Don Cherry’s on June 17th at 6 PM